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Devolin, Danielsen in race for warden

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Two members of Haliburton County council would like to be warden for 2021, meaning county councillors will participate in an election to determine who will become head of council for the upcoming year.

Haliburton County council consists of the mayors and deputy mayors of each of the county's four lower-tier municipalities. Each December, members select from amongst themselves the councillor who will serve as warden, the head of county council, for the upcoming year. Traditionally, this takes place at an in-person meeting, but amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, that election, and a subsequent inaugural meeting, will take place virtually.

During a Nov. 25 online council meeting, councillors received nomination forms from Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, each expressing interest in occupying the warden's chair for 2021. Danielsen has been deputy mayor of Algonquin

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Seeing Santa safely

Framed by a vehicle's window frame, Santa Claus gives a thumbs up to children attending the Rotary Community Christmas Party "Drive-Thru" Edition on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Curry Chevrolet in Haliburton. The community effort was possible because of the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the Haliburton and District Lions Club, the BIA, Curry Chevrolet and an army of more than 20 volunteers. /DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton moves into Ontario's COVID-19 'Yellow' zone

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

New COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of people allowed at social gatherings and tightening regulations on bars and restaurants are being implemented across Haliburton County this week.

It was revealed on Friday, Dec. 4 that the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge [HKPR] District Health Unit would be moving into the 'Yellow-Protect' level of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework. Officially transitioning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, the move comes as a result of increased coronavirus activity in our area, according to Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health with HKPR

District Health Unit.

"We are seeing more COVID-19 activity in our region, so the move into 'Yellow' is not a surprise," Dr. Noseworthy stated. "The new measures in the 'Yellow' level are not much different than what we currently have in place, but will enhance our ability to slow the spread of COVID-19 in

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Dusting off forgotten musical instruments for kids

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A new initiative to bring loved but unused instruments into the hands of kids throughout the county is only a few days old, but already an inventory is growing and a couple of guitars have found new homes.

Haliburton resident Tom Oliver said the idea started “pretty much on a whim,” when he saw a post from a fellow resident looking to gift her guitars to someone who needed them. Oliver works for Shopify, an e-commerce company, and is skilled at making websites.

“The lightbulb kind of came on and I thought, this wouldn’t be that hard, to put it together and just see who else has got instruments out there, just kicking around in their house,” he said. “I’ve been collecting guitars for years, and I’m as bad as anyone else in terms of having all these dusty instruments in corners. The idea just popped into my head – why don’t we see if we can round up all these instruments and get them into the hands of some kids?”

And so the Haliburton Music Exchange was launched, with a website listing inventory currently available, and Oliver arranging signage to bring attention to the drop-off and pick-up point - his home at 1003 Bolender by the Lake Drive, across from Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. off of County Road 21. It’s all happening fast, but Oliver hopes it might get instruments into homes for Christmas.

“On the one hand you have all these people that are in the spirit of Christmas giving, and we’ve got also these people who are having a hard time making ends meet and finding a present they can afford for their kids,” he said. “It wasn’t even that that was in my mind when I first started, but as I was thinking on it I thought, this is perfect timing.”

Quickly, he began receiving offers for instruments, as well as positive feedback from those who appreciate the idea.

“The response has been unbelievable,” said Oliver. “I’ve already got at least 10 guitars that have been donated, clarinets, flutes, some harmonicas, hand drums, there’s just all kinds of stuff that is slowly filtering through. Well, I say slowly, but not even, actually – this has all been within three or four days.”

He’s even had an offer of a donation from HaliUkes, and hopes to have a section on the site to promote that business – as well as others in the area that offer instruments and music-related accessories in the hopes that those who start to learn an instrument will continue supporting local options when it comes time to restring or upgrade. He also plans on launching a resource site linking to online explanations and guides, and also a directory of music lessons – some instructors have already reached out offering to help, perhaps with an online group session.

“It’s one thing to give a kid a guitar, but if you don’t give them any lessons, then you know, it doesn’t really give them a very good starting point,” said Oliver.

The possibilities are endless, but Oliver laughs: “I literally just built the site three days ago,” he said. “It’s very much the beginning, very much trying to build up inventory right now, that’s our main focus ... This is obviously a very long-term thing, and I’m not too worried about what we’re going to be able to do in a couple of weeks but it would be really nice to try to get enough that it has some impact on the holidays this year.”

The process to choose an instrument is easy, said Oliver, with the site offering pages to scroll through, images of donated items to click on, and a standard check-out option but without a need to give any sort of credit card details – the instruments are free of charge. Contact details enable Oliver to get in touch to arrange pick-up.

While he won’t be limiting anyone from picking out an



Seven-year-old Jaime Holwell helps dad Tom Oliver promote the Haliburton Music Exchange, an initiative to help rehome unused musical instruments into the hands of children in Haliburton County. /Photo submitted by Tom Oliver

instrument, Oliver said he does hope people will come for the right reasons.

“I kind of have to put my trust in people to take if they need to take,” he said. “Whether that person was financially able to do it or not, my attitude is, it still got an instrument into somebody’s hands that wasn’t being used and there’s a chance that instrument is going to be used now. I don’t really see how that’s a negative.”

He hopes those who can, will donate toward helping with the cost of strings, giving back into the program.

And for now, any instrument, or music-related accessory like tuners, strings, sheet music – is welcome. While he’s opted not to move and store pianos or organs, he’s happy to bridge the gap between buyer and seller – or giver and taker – by posting it on the site.

“If it’s something that someone can use to play music, we’ll take it,” he said.

If, by chance, an instrument isn’t being used after being picked up, Oliver recommends bringing it back to circulate in the program again, or trading it for something else.

“You can’t push this kind of stuff on a kid,” he said. “Either they get into it or not. If you’re not using it, bring it back for the same reason you came and picked it up. Pass this off to somebody else, and don’t let it just go sit in the corner of your house.”

He acknowledges there’s a financial barrier for many kids who want to play an instrument, but hopes that by offering a chance to try it, the interest might stay with someone for life.

“I grew up in a home where my parents collected instruments, that was something they loved to do, I grew up in a house filled with everything you can imagine – cellos, harps, pianos, everything,” he said. “I write music. We’ve got a little seven-year-old at home, she sees me

writing music, she’s writing music with her friends every night on Zoom, and just watching her have that spark to pick up a guitar and write a song, it’s awesome. I look at it and, this is amazing. The idea that that would be happening in other households is kind of inspiring.”

Oliver has been coming to the area since he himself was a kid, and bought a house here about five years ago. While his work on a sailboat initially kept him out of the area, with online work with Shopify he is now able to be at home.

“When I finally got a chance to settle down and kind of be here, I just thanked the gods every day that I had bought when I did, before the market went ballistic, and that I can call this home now,” he said. “I’ve lived all over the place and this is the only place I’ve ever really considered to be home.”

He’s also involved with the Haliburton County Youth Sailing Association, which addresses youth mental health through sailing. Though the in-person group was limited this year in how it could operate, Oliver said the Haliburton Music Exchange doesn’t have any sort of similar barrier due to the pandemic. Now, he just hopes it works.

“It’s just the anticipation of seeing if we’re going to get the inventory or not,” said Oliver. “I’m just hoping there’s enough stuff out there that we’re able to build up an inventory that gives us some traction and really makes this thing, a thing. Like I’m really at the whim of the community right now. The success of this completely depends upon everybody saying, ‘hey, do I have a dusty guitar, or do I have a dusty anything, and am I willing to give it up.’ If that happens and we get lots of inventory, then this thing’s going to fly.”

For more information, visit HaliburtonMusicExchange.com, or Haliburton Music Exchange on Facebook.

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Move to Yellow zone is 'no surprise' says local medical officer of health

from page 1

our communities."

The local health unit will stay in the 'Yellow' level for a minimum of 28 days.

As of Monday, Dec. 7, there are 35 unresolved cases of COVID-19 within our local health region, although none of those individuals reside in Haliburton [28 in Northumberland County, and seven in the City of Kawartha Lakes]. There hasn't been a case of COVID-19 reported in Haliburton County since Nov. 27. According to the local health unit, that case is no longer considered active.

Since the pandemic began back in March, there have been 349 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the HKPR District Health Unit, with 27 of those stemming from Haliburton County. The local area was one of only two health units in southern Ontario to remain in the 'Green-Prevent' category, along with Renfrew County and District Health Unit, prior to Monday's shift.

The 'Yellow-Protect' level is the second lowest in Ontario's five-level COVID-19 response framework. Others include 'Green-Prevent', 'Orange-Restrict', 'Red-Control', and 'Grey-Lockdown'. These public health measures can be adjusted, tightened, or loosened based on local COVID-19 trends and case counts. The colour code for each health region is reviewed weekly by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Under the new zone, limits to the number of people allowed at organized public events, social gatherings and religious services, rites and ceremonies remain in place. For events such as parties, family dinners or wedding receptions held at home, there is a limit of 10 people allowed indoors and 25 people allowed outdoors. Limits for public events and gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities are capped at 50 people for indoor events and 100 people for outdoor events.

The restaurant industry is taking the hardest hit with the move, with new rules stating all eateries and bars must be closed by midnight, while alcohol can no longer be sold or served after 11 p.m. There is also a new limit on the number of people that can be seated at one table while dining in, capped at six. As well, contact information must be collected from all patrons who dine in at a restaurant. Previous rules stated only one person from a party had to provide their con-

tact information.

Gyms and fitness clubs are also impacted by the move, with new rules mandating spacing between patrons inside the facility should be extended to three metres, up from two metres, in areas with weights or exercise equipment.

Any business found to be in violation of the new regulations run the risk of receiving a hefty fine. There have been reports of businesses in heavily-impacted areas such as Toronto and Peel Region being fined as much as \$10,000 for breaking various COVID-19 protection measures.

Entrepreneurs in Haliburton County have, largely, played ball when it comes to adapting their business practices in the wake of new rules and regulations in recent months, according to Dr. Noseworthy.

"Local businesses and organizations have done an excellent job following the public health measures designed to protect our residents," she said. "It's important we continue to work together with our business community to ensure a smooth transition to the new restrictions coming into effect under the 'Yellow' level."

Local residents should continue to follow recommended public health measures, such as staying home when ill, wearing a mask while in public, maintaining physical distancing, washing hands thoroughly and frequently, and avoiding all non-essential travel, especially to high-risk areas.

In a recent letter directed to area residents, Carolyn Plummer, President and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, said it was especially important to follow these practices with the busy holiday season now upon us.

"Just as I ask my staff to remain cautious about their infection control and prevention measures, I am also respectfully asking this of our community," Plummer said. "With the prevalence of the virus across the province rising, lockdowns in other regions, and the holiday season upon us, this [move to the 'Yellow' zone] is no surprise."

"I know there will be brighter, and warmer days ahead for us all, and I remain deeply grateful for everything our community continues to do to protect the health and safety of our staff, patients, residents, families, friends and neighbours," Plummer concluded.



Dr. Kristin Lythgoe recently began work at the emergency room at the HHHS facility in Haliburton Village. / CHAD INGRAM Staff

New docs at HHHS emergency rooms

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Kristin Lythgoe is one of two doctors who recently began working in the emergency department at Haliburton Highlands Health Services, and while Lythgoe may be new to HHHS, she is not new to Haliburton County.

"I was born in Toronto, but grew up a little bit all over the place, in Calgary, Edmonton, and Newmarket," Lythgoe told the *Echo*. "My family and I always spent time on Boshkung Lake every summer at our family cottage. My parents moved to the area full-time in 2010. My husband and I wanted to be closer to family in Haliburton County and Toronto, and have always loved our time spent in the area, which was what prompted our move to Haliburton."

Lythgoe became interested in medicine in high school, especially medical genetics, and in university was drawn to her physiology and pathology classes. "During medical school I realized that I loved 'a little bit of everything' which was what led me to choose emergency medicine as a speciality," Lythgoe said.

She completed her undergrad studies at the University of Western Ontario, attended medical school at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri, and completed her emergency medicine residency in Buffalo, N.Y., along with an ultrasound fellowship.

"In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband Josh and our two cats, my family and friends, baking, exercising, DIY projects, and watercolour painting," Lythgoe said.

Lythgoe and another physician new to the HHHS ER department were attained through the County of Haliburton's physician recruitment activities, headed up by Cheryl Kennedy.

"She has been doing a wonderful job to help us with this process, and we are extremely grateful for the support of the County of Haliburton," HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer said of Kennedy. "We are in a much better position now than we have been, with the ability to fill almost all emergency department shifts with our own team. However we are continuing to recruit, and establishing a longer-term plan to help support a more sustainable approach to physician staffing."

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Celebrating the festive season

Carnavon's Ava Woodard, four, waves to Santa Claus at the Rotary Community Christmas Party "Drive-Thru" Edition on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Curry Chevrolet in Haliburton. The community effort doubled last year's attendance with more than 600 people coming out over the course of the evening, which was possible because of the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the Haliburton and District Lions Club, the BIA, Curry Chevrolet and the army army of more than 20 volunteers. /DARREN LUM Staff



Volunteers sort through gift bags for children. There were 310 gift bags given to children, who attended the Christmas event.



Above, the lines of vehicles stretched down the road and around the corner for several hundred metres.

Left, Lorry Brandon hands out pizzas to a carload of people during this year's Rotary Community Christmas Party "Drive-Thru" Edition on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Curry Chevrolet in Haliburton. There were 700 pieces of pizza given away at the community event, which featured Santa Claus.

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Haliburton retirement residence to open May 2021, will create up to 60 new jobs

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence will open up its doors on May 1, 2021 and with it create between 50 and 60 new jobs in the local community.

Phil McKenzie, representing one of the three partners involved in the multi-million-dollar project, informed Dysart council back on Nov. 24 that contractors were making good progress on the four-storey complex, located on Sunnyside Street near Maple Avenue in Haliburton Village.

This is good news for senior residents across the region, McKenzie says. Offering both assisted and independent living units, the Gardens of Haliburton will go a long way towards plugging a sizeable gap in the local community.

"This is an option for seniors that Haliburton didn't have before," McKenzie previously told the *Echo*. "Certainly there are condos and apartments and obviously residential homes and cottages [locally] but ... if there came a point where that situation wasn't working for you anymore and you needed some assistance, then you had homecare to a certain level, but beyond that, there was this big jump to long-term care."

McKenzie told Dysart council that around 70 percent of people over the age of 75 will need assistance of some kind during their day-to-day life.

Once up and running, the Gardens of Haliburton will run a whole gamut of services for its residents. With 70 units on site, spread across one level of independent living and two levels of assisted living, staff will work alongside residents to ensure they are well taken care of, McKenzie says.



The multi-million-dollar Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence project, located at 1 Sunnyside Street in Haliburton Village, is nearing completion. / MIKE BAKER Staff

Individuals, or couples, residing in the independent living units will have access to hands-on care from nurses and PSWs, but won't receive specifically scheduled daily care. Those in assisted living units will receive up to two hours of care per day, with additional services available on an "à la carte" basis, as McKenzie described, for an additional cost.

Suites start at around \$3,000 per month for the smaller units, which includes accommodation and access to all services, and run as high as \$5,000 per month for the more plush units. Around a third of the 70 units available have already been reserved. While there is some excitement throughout the community over the news the facility is less than six months away from opening, McKenzie was rather frank when talking about the Gardens and the reason they were being built.

"Our product is not something that is aspirational. Never has a couple driven

by a retirement residence and said 'you know, if everything works out perfectly, wouldn't it be great if one day we could live in a place like that,'" McKenzie said. "We are a very needs-driven product, and people come to us because something is not working in their current situation."

He says there are typically three reasons why people may look to move into a retirement residence – they're not eating properly, don't have access to a car and can't drive anymore, or they may have lost their spouse/partner.

Having been involved in more than 60 retirement residence developments over the course of his career, McKenzie says, while the circumstances behind their relocating to a retirement facility may not be positive, he has seen many people given a new lease on life after moving in and meeting fellow residents.

"There is an opportunity to find new friends, and they live literally right down

the hall, so it's perfect," McKenzie said.

With everything going to plan on the construction side, McKenzie says he and his partners are getting to work on building a team that can help to deliver success at Haliburton's first retirement residence. He expects to hire a general manager before the end of the year, then look to fill other upper-management positions in the early stages of 2021.

Ward 4 Coun. John Smith was pleased to hear that preference would be given to local residents who apply for positions at the site, with the organization hoping to fill up to 60 spots, encompassing both full-time and part-time, by May 1, 2021.

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said she has watched on with excitement as the Gardens project has progressed in recent months.

"It's been a long time [from] when [Fleming] college closed there [and moved to a new location in town]. That property was going to be several different things over the years, so it's really nice to see this actually come to fruition. Housing is a huge need in our community, and this is just one more option for people," Roberts said.

"I think it's fabulous. This is a wonderful addition to our township, and also the county. It's something we've never had here. It's something that so many people have had to move away for, because we didn't have (a retirement residence) option in town," Roberts concluded.

The Gardens of Haliburton has a sales office, located at the Haliburton Village Barn on Highland Street. For more information, visit gardensofhaliburton.ca, or contact Patti-Lou Robinson, the Gardens' director of community relations, at 705-457-4848, or by email at pattilou@gardensofhaliburton.ca.

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

All eyes on the UK

IS ANYONE ELSE at least a little bit surprised by the news that a COVID-19 vaccine could be readily available on these shores before the end of the year?

And we're not talking about that super shady Soviet serum Sputnik V, neither. No, this actually appears to be the real deal. Rubber stamped by the Queen of England herself!

Shipments of the coronavirus vaccine developed by American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech were delivered to the UK on Sunday, Dec. 6. Around 800,000 doses of the vaccine were in place for the start of a nationwide immunization program that began on Tuesday, Dec. 8. In total, the country has secured 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which officials expect will cover immunizing around 20 million people.

This is the first recognized rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine since the world was gripped by the global pandemic back in March. To say there are a few people interested in seeing how it goes may be something of an understatement.

In trials, the vaccine was shown to have around a 95 percent efficacy rate, meaning it has the ability to produce a desired or intended result. That's likely about as good as we're going to get with something like this. I can't imagine there being too many scientists, doctors, chemists, or whatever coming out and saying their product will 100 percent cure whatever ailment they're targeting. Certainly not for something as ubiquitous, as all-encompassing as COVID-19.

Personally, I was shocked when I learned this rollout was a real thing that was actually going to happen. I

wrote a column a few months back questioning the Russian government's decision to push forward with development and mass rollout of Sputnik V. In it, I said a vaccine backed by global health bodies likely wouldn't see the light of day in the western world until mid-to late 2021. And, hand on heart, I thought I was being rather ambitious estimating it would be that soon.

Developing, testing and reviewing any potential vaccine is a long and arduous process that almost always takes years to complete. Even then, there is a constant need to study

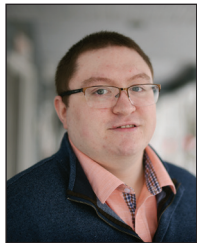
data after the fact. The mumps vaccine, considered to be the fastest ever approved by the World Health Organization, took four years to go from collecting viral samples to licensing a drug back in 1967. Yes, science and technology has come on leaps and bounds since then, but it's pretty telling that it's been half a century and no other vaccine has beaten that four-year from start to finish record.

Well, perhaps until now.

The United States is hoping to start its own vaccination program, using the same Pfizer/BioNTech product, later in December. In a recent interview with CBC, Sean Marett, the chief business and chief commercial officer of BioNTech, said his company could ship doses of the vaccine to Canada within 24 hours of Health Canada approving its use. The federal body is continuing to monitor the situation.

For the time being, all eyes will be on the UK. Should the mass rollout of the vaccine be successful, it won't be long before the rest of the civilized world gets in line.

Could this insane, near year-long nightmare finally be coming to a close? Man, I hope so.



mike
baker

Editorial



Skiing into the sun

by Darren Lum

Winter wood

MONIKA HAD just sat down with a cup of tea when she heard it. A rumble that started slowly then grew. She swore the whole house shook, though it probably didn't. Looking out the window, she saw what she had expected to see but hoped somehow it wasn't true. The woodpile had fallen down.

It had taken her 30 wheelbarrow loads over two days to move that wood from her front yard to the woodshed. She'd hurried because it was supposed to snow and she wanted to get it in before the pieces got wet. It was already seasoned and she'd be using it this winter. Soaking wet was not compatible with fire in a woodstove.

One year she had waited too long and snow, rain and then freezing rain had made for an icy mess. Some of the pieces had stuck together and there she was, outside swinging her axe against the heap to loosen the logs. And to make it more interesting, the snow had then re-appeared. Like some kind of mechanical figure in a store window, she had swung her arms up and down, up and down as the snow turned her white. She promised herself to never again leave the job so late in the season.

Her neighbour Jim now stored it a year ahead of time for her. He went into the bush, felled the trees – mostly maple and beech, and after cutting, splitting and piling it around his place, brought Monika her order a year later, all ready to pile once again before feeding it into her stove.

Now she had to re-pile. At least she didn't have to move it to the shed. It was already there though in a tangled mountain. Like so many other times in her life, all she could do was shrug and get on with what had to be done.

And it was a post card perfect afternoon. Although the forecast was calling for snow later, right now the sky was a blue dome above dark fingers reaching upward. The jays around the feeders matched the blue, scolding her for dis-

turbing them. There are worse places to be and worse tasks to do than what I'm doing right now, she thought.

Whenever Monika felt discouraged or a little down about her life or the world in general, she did this. She thought of other parts of the world torn apart by war. Or she thought of people in her own community who had no wood to pile and were dependent on the kindness of strangers. Monika saw them sometimes in town. The children's clothes a little too big or a little too small. The pickup barely held together, rust threatening to take it all.

No she had no real complaints. Maybe a sore back tonight but then she'll be able to curl up in front of the fire, feet up with a good book and by morning she'll be fine.

She worked away at it until it was dark and by then most of the wood was done. This time she had worked more slowly, making sure there was no leaning one way or another and the ends were well secured. Stepping back to admire the job, she missed the step down and fell backwards.

As she lay on the ground, feeling both foolish and uneasy about any possible damage done, she waited a minute before righting herself. Looking up, she saw the moon had risen. The only sound came from her as she slowed her breathing and took stock. Nothing hurt. One of the advantages of thick winter clothing, she thought.

Deciding she was fine, Monika walked around the corner of the house heading for the back door and came face to face with a doe. It had been nibbling on a willow bush when Monika surprised it. It froze then scampered off to join the others. Monika knew they were there even though she couldn't see them at the moment.

When she was back inside, she put the kettle on for another tea and thought about supper. Maybe she could invite Jim over later for some cribbage. They could trade stories about woodpiles and deer.

Down



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lynch

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points of view

Oh, Christmas tree!

I'M NOT saying the world is a more complicated place than it used to be, but I will say this. This year, our Christmas tree came with instructions. Just to be clear, we did not purchase an artificial tree. No, it is a real tree that came from its natural environment – the grocery store parking lot. It was grown, as all wild Christmas trees are, with netting around it too. And, as God as my witness, it came with instructions. Look, I'm not exactly the most observant guy in the world, so maybe real Christmas trees have always come with detailed instructions and I just missed it. If so, forgive me for telling you what you already know. But, for me at least, this was a new one. Up till this moment, I always thought a man set up a Christmas tree in the living room or den using nothing but instinct, power tools and a fair bit of good fortune. Apparently, I was wrong. There was a bright side to all this though – and it was my pup Rosie.



steve galea

Loon Tales

Within seconds of Jenn showing me the instruction tag that came with the tree, that marvellous pup ripped it out of my hand and ate every last word. So, to this day, I don't know what they said. Now who's crazy for spending all that money on a pure-bred, huh? Thanks to Rosie, I had to follow in the steps of my forefathers and set up a Christmas tree in the living room using only prehensile thumbs and a limited capacity

for reason.

But, you know what? I got it done without serious incident.

Sure, it took three tries, but once I remembered that the pointy end went up, everything else soon fell into place.

Which is to say, less than half an hour and several creative curse words later, I was wearing copious amounts of spruce pitch and a smile. And our tree was teetering precariously, just as God intended.

Yet, when all was said and done, a cold shiver ran down my spine. That's because I also realized how lucky we were. For, once again, I had cheated death and set up a Christmas tree without ever once looking at instructions.

It was like that five-legged IKEA chair all over again.

I will admit that I felt, and still feel, suitably proud of the accomplishment – sort of like an Instagrammer who made breakfast. For when I was done our majestic tree was situated in the living room where it would soon become an ideal ambush location for at least one psychotic cat – and a source of terror for two unsuspecting dogs.

I offered to decorate it too, but Jenn would have none of it. Perhaps it was her disdain for my vision of an antler-based tribute to the reindeer. Maybe it was because I wanted to place a trail camera on the tree to clear up this whole Santa Claus thing once and for all. I guess we will never really know.

What I do know is that Jenn was incredibly happy with the outcome, probably because I never once had to yell "Timber" and she never once had to dive for cover.

So much for yuletide traditions.

In any case, when she peeked her head around the corner and noted that the tree was secure, she stepped in tentatively and applauded.

I couldn't help but take a bough.



pic of the past

This week's pic of the past appeared in the *Echo* on Nov. 14, 1979. Allin S. Copper, president of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129 in Haliburton, salutes after placing a wreath at the cenotaph during Remembrance Day ceremonies held in Haliburton Village in 1979.

letters to the editor

Focusing on the wrong government

To the Editor,

This Letter to the Editor is in response to the letter in the Dec.1 issue of the Echo from Greg J. Roe, who apparently represents "Concerned Citizens of Haliburton"

In his letter to the editor of December 1, Mr. Roe correctly raises the point that governments are often known to "never waste a good crisis" to pass legislation that otherwise may not pass without strong opposition.

However, instead of focusing on the Ford government, he might want to take a look at Ottawa and what the Trudeau government is doing to destroy our country, as we knew it.

The Liberals are blatantly taking advantage of this pandemic to not only slide certain bills through Parliament, but to completely change the way our democratic, capitalistic (capitalism pays the bills!) way of life. One of the Liberal govern-

ment's strategies is to never let the truth get in the way of buying the next election with taxpayers' own money.

But maybe Mr. Roe did consider writing about the Trudeau Liberals, but quickly realized that such a letter would fill this newspaper several times over.

Another government deserving of criticism for seeking to push through important legislation during the pandemic is right here in Haliburton, where the county seems to be rushing its proposed shoreline preservation bylaw, when I believe appropriate laws already exist to preserve the shorelines and prevent inappropriate building too close to the water. Perhaps if more time and dollars were spent actually enforcing the existing bylaws, we would not need a new one.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

| New Cases Reported Today | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 8 | | | | | |
| Haliburton | KawarthaLakes | Northumberland | | | | | |
| Total Confirmed Cases to Date | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 205 | 117 | 349 | | | | |
| Haliburton (HAL) | Kawartha Lakes (CKL) | Northumberland (NTH) | HKPRDHU | | | | |
| COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County | | | | | | | |
| County | Cases Not Resolved | Cases Resolved | Current High-Risk Contacts | Current Probable Cases | Hospitalizations (Total to date) | Deaths among Confirmed Cases | Deaths among Probable Cases |
| Haliburton | 0 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kawartha Lakes | 7 | 179 | 19 | 0 | 11 | 19 | 13 |
| Northumberland | 28 | 88 | 174 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU | | | | | | | |
| All Counties | Cases Not Resolved | Cases Resolved | Current High-Risk Contacts | Current Probable Cases | Hospitalizations (Total to date) | Deaths among Confirmed Cases | Deaths among Probable Cases |
| HKPRDHU | 35 | 294 | 195 | 0 | 16 | 20 | 13 |

All confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County have been resolved, and no new cases were reported in the Dec. 7 update by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. Two current high-risk contacts in the county remain, according to the data. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU

Two in the running for county warden position

from page 1

Highlands since 2010 and has served as warden for 2019 and 2020. Devolin has been mayor of Minden Hills since 2014 and previously served as warden in 2017. "County council has reached the mid-point of our term, and the second half of the term will likely involve significant changes and challenges, as to how municipal government operates and delivers services," Devolin said.

He and Danielsens were each given 10 minutes to address their colleagues. Councillors received a service delivery review for the county and its lower-tier municipalities from Toronto-based consulting firm Strategy-Corp later that day.

"COVID-19, evolving regulatory requirements, rapid population growth, both seasonal and permanent, tight labour markets and future diminishing federal and provincial funding will require an evolution of how municipal governments will function in the near and distant future," Devolin said. "Service delivery reviews, asset management, working from a distance, using technology and connectivity while moving to a more paperless approach to operations offer an opportunity to take a proactive stance to shape and form the county for the future," he continued. "... Municipal

“

I do acknowledge fully that extending my term might seem rather extraordinary to some... I do believe I've served the county well in an open, transparent and business-like fashion

— Liz Danielsens, Haliburton County warden

ipal leaders must be mindful to not lose the benefits of the current structure and operations, while endeavouring to achieve actual positive results in the changes that may be considered."

In her speech, Danielsens acknowledged it would be unusual for a member of county council to be warden for three consecutive years, and said she thought maintaining consistency during the ongoing pandemic would be helpful for council.

"I do acknowledge fully that extending my term might seem rather extraordinary to some," Danielsens said. "... I do believe I've served the county well in an open, transparent and business-like fashion and my focus has always been on ensuring that the business at hand is taken care of, and I follow the agreed-upon will and path of council."

"I know that you've all had difficult times as a result of the pandemic, the workload has been immense, and we've all just had to slog through it," she continued. "... For me, one of the most compelling arguments for me continuing the position is continuity, and I've made this point to all of you. I believe that continuity is vital. We do remain under a state of local emergency, and I've been working closely with all of the department heads since early March. And continuity during such times brings consistency in decision-making, and I truly believe that it's helpful for staff as they've been managing their way through these uncertain times."

Councillors will be submitting virtual ballots with their votes, and the 2021 warden will be announced at an inaugural meeting on Dec. 15.

Arts Council of Haliburton Highlands commits to second episode of The 6-Minute Escape

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local artists looking for their six minutes of fame are being encouraged to contact the Arts Council of Haliburton Highlands (ACHH).

The local organization revealed last week that it will be putting together a second episode of The 6-Minute Escape, which debuted to widespread acclaim back on Oct. 3. The video, which is available to watch on YouTube, featured travel stories from well-known Canadian authors such as Ted Barris, Susanna Kearsley and Tom Taylor, recounting tales relating to the theme of 'Beyond the Borders of Home'.

In its next installment, ACHH plans to tackle the theme of transformation.

"The ACHH is pleased to build on the success of the first episode of The 6-Minute Escape by opening the request for submissions to all artistic genres. Anyone with a message to convey on the theme of 'Transformations' is welcome to apply," said Kate Butler, Chair of ACHH.

"The Arts Council hopes that the second episode will feature artists from a broad spectrum of artistic genres including, but not limited to, visual art, dance, music, theatre and literary. The committee is recruiting a couple of well-known Canadian artists, who have a connection to the Haliburton Highlands, to show their work alongside our amazing local artists and artisans," she added.

The 6-Minute Escape is a fundraiser for the ACHH, created to try and raise money for the organization during these trying times. All donations help ACHH continue their work in promoting and nurturing the arts and artists of Haliburton County, Butler states. A GoFundMe page, listed under the name 6-minute-escape, has raised \$230 for the local group since going live back in August.

The deadline for submissions to be considered for The 6-Minute Escape: Transformations is Feb. 1. Successful candidates will be notified by Feb. 15, with a final video showcasing their talent due by March 15. The video will be released in spring 2021.

"The second episode of The 6-Minute Escape promises to be a multimedia extravaganza that comes right to your living room," Butler said.

To learn more about the submission process and requirements, visit haliburton.librariesshare.com/6minutescape. Members of the public wishing to be notified of information about this project are invited to sign up for the newsletter at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca.

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Longtime West Guilford volunteer acknowledged

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

When Carol Stamp resigned from the West Guilford Community Centre committee in the fall, she did so after 40 years of service for the community she has called home since the '70s.

"She has been an active member since 1979," read the committee meeting notes. "She began as a member of the monthly dance committee who were instrumental in renovating the upstairs classrooms into a hall. She was brought in by Perry Morrison and has been a part of the centre ever since. She has organized children's Christmas concerts, Canada Day celebrations, fundraisers, community dinners and much more."

Stamp humbly says, "I just sat on the committee, that's all," and notes the names of others involved over the years – including Clarence Bain, Burt Cowen, Eugene Ripley, Carol Duncan – while also acknowledging an entire community that has supported the West Guilford Recreation Centre at 1061 Kennisis Lake Road, from the municipality to the local shop owners who have always stepped up to help contribute for funerals or when supplies were low.

"We've always had between six and 10 people usually on the committee at one time," she says. "They've always been really good, helpful, get things done, keep it going."

Stamp remembers the building being a school that had been closed for a few years, before the municipality bought it for a dollar from the school board.

"They said they'd buy it, paid a buck for it, and said it would always remain that way as long as the community looked after it, you know, ran it," said Stamp. She is grateful for the support from the municipality to help keep the centre going.

"So far we've managed to keep it running so that's good for our community," she said. "Right now there's not much going on, but when this [pandemic] is all over hopefully they can get back to having [events] again."

Stamp was here from Scarborough visiting her aunt and uncle at the lake when she met Lyle at a house party after a wedding dance and settled into life in West Guilford. They were married in 1975, and she joined the rec centre committee soon after. Dances at the centre – held in the basement at the time – were a big part of the couple's life together.

"This is how many people used to go, they sold out every month," says Stamp. "Clarence Bain kept the tickets in his pocket, and when he was out and about, so if you saw him you nabbed a ticket from him. By the middle of the month, you had to have your ticket from him to the next dance. Even for the ordinary ones, that's how well they were attended."

She giggles at the memory. "I remember one year, we weren't on the dance committee then, but we forgot to get our New Years' tickets," she says. "And they were all sold out, and so we couldn't go. And Grenville [Stamp, Lyle's brother] said, 'that will never happen again.'"

Soon after, Stamp joined the dance committee.

"[Lyle] had two brothers and their wives and us, so the three brothers and the three sisters-in-laws formed a dance committee, to get bands in," she says.

"They haven't had a monthly dance for a long time. Maybe somebody will start them up again, it would be nice to see ... [It was] kind of the focal point you know. It's not so much in the last few years, it's not the same as it was, but at one time it was a real going concern, you know. There's still quite a bit going on. But it's a different time than it was then. The young people, they don't go to dances anymore." And then, laughing: "And we're all too old to go."

She remembers an active centre, with quilting, sewing and craft events taking part there, and bingo nights.

"We weren't over there all the time, through the week it was basically other people that did stuff there," she said. "I wasn't involved in the crafts ... Basically what Lyle and I did together. He loved to dance and he really wanted the dances to keep going. We helped out with Canada Day a little bit. Always made sure we had a load of logs for the [cross-cut] contest. It's just something that we did, and we lived close, so I just walked over."

The upper floor of the building was still made up of classrooms when Stamp joined the committee, eventually they were taken out, a kitchen installed, and flooring laid down.

"It was made into a really nice dance floor," Stamp says.

She suggested hosting a Canada Day event because she thought the community should have "something for the kids." West Guilford's beloved Canada Day celebration has brought neighbours and visitors together now since 1980.

"There's way more people than just me that have been involved in it over the years," she says again. "On Canada Day, we always had 30 pies – so that's 30 women out of a little community like this that would bring pies, for nothing. That was a big seller. So on Canada Day, those pies kind of paid for a lot of stuff."

The centre grounds are also now home to a ball diamond, skating rink and playground. "We started renting it out so a lot of birthday parties were there, and weddings," Stamp says. "It's a nice facility, it's not huge, but it's got everything, has a nice yard. They keep it up. They hire someone to clean it. It's all maintained."

The West Guilford Recreation Centre means a lot to Stamp, where so many memories were made for her own family then, as well as her family now.

"It's very important to me, because I think, another generation coming up, you know, I'm hoping that it will stay there, and the community will be able to maintain it because I think they need something like that," she said. "There's not a lot of kids in Guilford anymore, but they still need a place to go ... I think we need something like that in our community and I hope they keep supporting it."

see STAMP page 11

This holiday season needs to be different.

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Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

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Haliburton County's kids turn living rooms into science labs

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

An audible "wow" might have been heard across Haliburton County on the morning of Nov. 30, as kids saw right before their eyes the chemical reaction that takes place when vitamin C and baking soda are mixed with cabbage water.

More than 20 families participated in the Scientists in School virtual presentation together, with kids in one household sharing the limited number of kits available so that more could participate. Organized by Robin Dillane through a local parenting community Facebook page, the presentation was offered free of charge due to a donation from an anonymous person who saw her post organizing the session online and offered to pay the cost of the event so everyone could take part without worrying about a fee. Participants picked up science kits containing all materials needed – including cups, containers, straw spoons, craft sticks, Epsom salts, flour, baking soda, vitamin C crystals and red cabbage powder – from the porch of Dillane's Minden home.

Dillane, mom to Michael, had been planning a similar presentation through school council at Stuart Baker Elementary School in the last school year, but when schools closed after the pandemic was declared, the in-person presentation had to be cancelled. When she saw a virtual presentation being offered to Guelph library patrons, she began organizing one for kids throughout Haliburton County.

"Information just seems to find me, so no idea how I saw the Facebook post for

the Guelph library," she laughed.

Kids from all corners of the county took part, including members of the homeschooling community, and those learning at home through the TLDSB online learning program. Students ranged in age, with three-year-olds and teenagers all following along with an online educator – and a little help from parents at home – together.

"So far I have heard good feedback," said Dillane after the presentation. "I



Shawn Collins of Tory Hill watches a chemical reaction during a virtual Scientists in School presentation on Nov. 30. Homeschooling kids throughout the county logged on together to conduct an experiment using materials picked up curbside for the "As a Matter of Fact" lesson. /Submitted

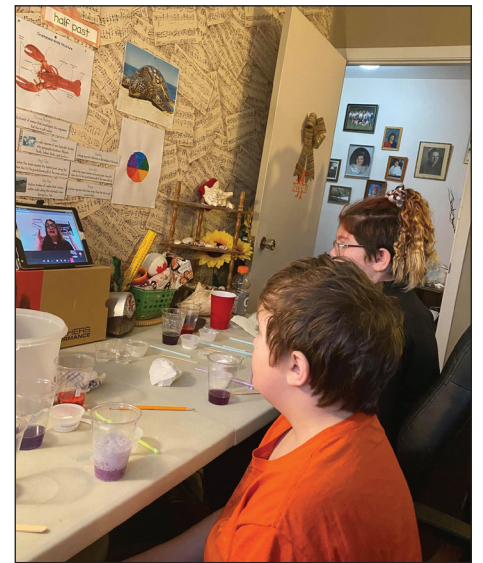
hope that everyone had fun and learned something new."

Such was the response from participants that another presentation would be welcome in the new year.

"I think it went well, the scientists are very easy to work with and all the parents and kids have been so supportive, picking up kits, and making sure they were logged in and were ready to participate," said Dillane.

Families interested in participating in the future or donors interested in helping can contact Dillane at robindillane@haliburton-mortgages.com or via Facebook.

Owen Archer and Beth Allin took part in the virtual Scientists in School presentation on Nov. 30 from Algonquin Highlands, joining homeschooling kids throughout the county in conducting experiments. /Submitted



Stamp applauds effort of community

from page 9

Stamp stepped down from the committee because she hadn't been attending meetings for awhile.

"Right now, [president] Tanya Sisson's done a wonderful job," says Stamp. "She's really into everything, you know. She's got a good committee going there, new people on it, people interested in keeping it open, so she does a good job."

Though Stamp says that she followed others, committee notes presented to Dysart council acknowledge that those who follow her will have her work to build on.

"Her commitment to the community has been admirable and has set the bar

for those who follow," read the notes. "We thank her for her dedication and are sad to see her go. Her retirement is well deserved and we wish her nothing but the best."

Stamp appreciates the kind words but says it takes a village of people helping where they can to make a community work.

"Try to acknowledge that there's been many before me and there's a wonderful, young girl there," she says. "And that's the kind of people they are in Guilford, they're all community-minded, the majority of them. And still are ... That's what it's all about, isn't it? If you can help, help."

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Wildlife in your backyard



Area resident Guenter Horst managed to snap this picture of a black bear, sitting upright, while out at the Maple Lake landfill. As well as this giant, Guenter observed a momma bear protecting her three cubs at the site. /Submitted by Guenter Horst



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Tammy Nash snapped a beautifully timed shot of two deer looking back in her direction while she was out on a hike in Algonquin Highlands on Nov. 24. /Submitted by Tammy Nash



Child's play

Haliburton's Max Baker, three, plays with his mother Jennifer during the Indoor Play and Learn Program on Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Haliburton Legion. The EarlyON Child and Family Centre three-week offering every Thursday, which is held from 10:30 to 11:30 is for registered children from birth to six years of age, who must have a parent or caregiver. There is also programming offered in Minden every Fridays at the Minden and District Lions Club. Space is limited. The next session starts in January. Register online at admin@oeyc.ca or phone (705) 324-7900./DARREN LUM Staff

Minden's Samantha Reinwald, one, looks back during the Indoor Play and Learn Program.



Minden's Samantha Reinwald, one, covers her face while being tickled by her mother Alannah, as sister Raeya, three, laughs.

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The executive and volunteers of Fuel for Warmth would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to our charitable organization through the Shindig. The more than \$41,500 will go a long way to assisting those in need of help to heat their homes this winter! Thank to our generous sponsors, our wonderful donors, the production team, technical team and amazing talent who made this ground-breaking broadcast possible. Thank you to the Haliburton Museum, The Dominion Hotel and Pub and 100.9 Canoe FM for the use of their premises (& high speed internet.) Thank you to the media for their contributions & interest in this annual extravaganza. It was a fabulous show, in every respect. Thank you one and all!

Highlands Christmas Shindig

www.fuelforwarmth.com

We're now in the

'Yellow-Protect' COVID-19 Zone

Strengthened measures are now in place to prevent COVID-19 spread including:

- Most businesses must complete COVID-19 safety plan
- Restaurants/bars must close by midnight
- Alcohol can no longer be sold/served after 11 pm
- Limit of six people at one restaurant table
- Eateries and other select businesses must keep contact information for all customers
- Gyms/fitness clubs must increase spacing between members to 3 metres (from 2 metres)

Please continue to do your part to fight COVID-19:

- Stay home when sick
- Wear a mask when out in public
- Maintain 2 metre physical distance from others
- Wash hands often with soap and water
- Avoid non-essential travel, especially to high-risk areas

HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT
HEALTH UNIT

To learn more how Yellow affects you, visit:

www.hkpr.on.ca

1-866-888-4577 ext. 5020



An important message from SIRCH Community Services:

With winter's arrival and the pandemic creating additional financial hardship and isolation, SIRCH is very concerned for the most vulnerable and at-risk people living here.

Before COVID, we were producing 250 – 300 prepared & frozen meals a month and distributing them throughout the county to people who needed them the most.

And then, COVID hit and the demand for prepared meals skyrocketed...

“I am a single mom and was laid off due to COVID. I can't stand long enough to prepare decent meals for my 6 and 4 year old daughters because I am recovering from surgery. Money is very tight and it's hard to add vegetables to each meal. SIRCH's meals have been a godsend to me and my girls.”

With help from the community, SIRCH has made and given out over 23,000 meals, soups and fruit, FREE, since March. It's essential that we continue to produce a greater number of healthy meals to meet the urgent need in Haliburton County.

You can help make it happen.

Please give to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign today.

Thank you.



**Donate online: www.sirch.on.ca/donate
e-transfer: donate@sirch.on.ca
or phone SIRCH: 705-457-1742**

Gifts *from* the Heart

Donate online:

www.sirch.on.ca/donate

e-transfer: donate@sirch.on.ca

or phone us: 705-457-1742.

"A long-time friend of mine suffers from the early stages of dementia but still lives on her own. She can't follow recipes very well these days, and I can't help her cook anymore because of COVID risks. She started getting frozen meals from SIRCH in April. Now I don't have to worry about her not eating properly. She just heats the meals and enjoys. Sometimes she also gets apple crisp and loves that. Amazing."



"My neighbour Jim rarely leaves the house anymore due to depression, and all he has to cook on is one hotplate. When I found out about SIRCH's meals, I started to bring him a couple a week. Now he looks forward to them-especially the roast beef. He asked me to thank you for him"



Please mail this form to SIRCH Community Services, P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$_____

☐ I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount \$_____

☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to SIRCH Community Services)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Card Expiry Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____ Card CCV: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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REVIEW

Review of Proposed Operations Bancroft-Minden Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC)** and the **Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to participate in the review of proposed operations. This review is being held as part of the detailed planning of operations for the ten-year period of the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Bancroft-Minden Forest**.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The second opportunity (Stage Two) for this FMP occurred on September 15, 2020 to October 15, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on the proposed Long-Term Management Direction (LTMD). This **'Stage Three'** notice is:

- To invite you to review and comment on
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the confirmed corridors for new primary and branch roads for the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the proposed operational road boundaries for the 10-year period of the plan; and
- To request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal - <https://nrp.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>.

- a summary of the MNRF regional director preliminary endorsed LTMD; and
- a portrayal of:
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan; and
 - the confirmed corridors for new primary and branch roads which are required for the 10-year period of the plan;

In addition to the most current versions of the information which was available at Stage Two of public consultation, the following information will be available electronically on the Ontario government website:

Information available as described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual* FMPM (Part A, Section 2.3.3.3) <https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-forest-management-planning-manual-en-2020-07-08.pdf>

The detailed proposed operations can be made available electronically for review and comment by contacting the Bancroft Minden Forest Company office and/or MNRF contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 30 days from **January 4, 2021 to February 2, 2021**. Comments on the proposed operations for the Bancroft-Minden Forest must be received by Corinne Arthur of the planning team at the MNRF Southern Region Office, by **February 2, 2021**.

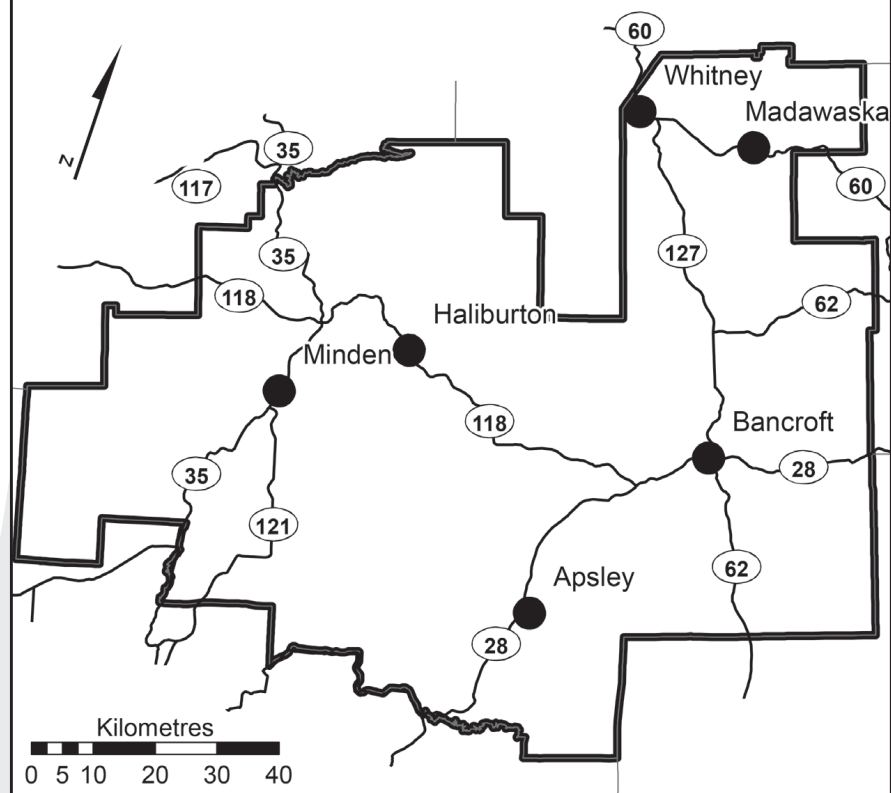
The Information Forum related to the review of Proposed Operations will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Regional Planning Forester
MNRF
tel: 705-313-3274
e-mail: corinne.arthur@ontario.ca

Svetlana Zeran, R.P.F.
Plan Author
BMFC
tel: 613-332-6890
e-mail: svetlana@bmfc.ca

Jane Dumas
Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)
e-mail: mayor@southalgonquin.ca

Bancroft-Minden Forest



During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *FMPM* (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The tentative scheduled date for submission of the draft FMP is March 2021. There will be two more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Stage Four - Review of Draft FMP | April 2021 |
| Stage Five - Inspection of the MNRF-Approved FMP | August 2021 |

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Jennifer Card at jennifer.card@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.



In partnership with HHHS Community Programs, over 1,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed in Haliburton County from Edwin Binney's Community Garden.

Funding support was provided to 12 local organizations through the federal government's Covid-19 Seniors Response and Emergency Community Support Funds. Over \$175,000 in pandemic support funding has been invested in Haliburton County through United Way CKL administered programs.

Haliburton County LCBO stores have raised over \$127,000 for children and youth programs through the United Way At the Till fundraiser.

Over \$10,000 in funding for fourinfo.com. This database is now part of the 211 system. Dial 211 or visit www.211.ca to find the community services you need.

In 2017, a Day of Caring for Community Living Trent Highlands was held to expand its community garden plots. Local businesses and volunteers helped make this dream a reality.

You can help make a difference in your community. Donate today by visiting <http://ckl-unitedway.ca/donate-now/> or mail in the form below.

.....

Full Name:

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Province:

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Credit Card Type (Please Circle): Mastercard/VISA

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Storm reflect on first session of season

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| 66 | | | | | 67 | | | | | 68 | | | |

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Skateboarders love them
 - 6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
 - 9. Former Ohio State great Michael
 - 13. Not dirty
 - 14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
 - 15. A Spanish river
 - 16. Pig meat (French)
 - 17. Famed astronomer
 - 18. Floating ice
 - 19. Broadcast
 - 21. Aquatic mammals
 - 22. Some are bath
 - 23. Hip hop trio
 - 24. NY Giants' #56
 - 25. Small European viper
 - 28. Neither
 - 29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
 - 31. Loud noise
 - 33. Second year high schooler
 - 36. "___ in comparison"
 - 38. Golf score
 - 39. Raise
 - 41. Pastas
 - 44. Easily manageable
 - 45. Fathered
 - 46. Pouch
 - 48. Institute legal proceedings against
 - 49. News organization
 - 51. Unruly group of peo-

- ple
 - 52. Fasten or secure
 - 54. Sheets of glass
 - 56. Doubled
 - 60. Foolish person
 - 61. Rooney and Kate are two
 - 62. Small, rich sponge cake
 - 63. Advice or counsel
 - 64. Large wading bird
 - 65. Famed British physi-
 - cist
 - 66. Narrow ridges (Swed-
 - ish)
 - 67. Field force unit
 - 68. Lying face downward
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
 - 2. Soap ingredient
 - 3. Blackbird
 - 4. Single steps
 - 5. Tin
 - 6. Books have lots of them
 - 7. Made of fermented honey and water
 - 8. You can get it in a bed
 - 9. Room for communal meals
 - 10. Early Syrian kingdom
 - 11. Provokes dry amuse-
 - ment
 - 12. Use with "thou"
 - 14. Mollusk

- 17. Grain storage units
 - 20. Not a car, not a truck
 - 21. Ooze
 - 23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
 - 25. Tennis pros group
 - 26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
 - 27. E. Indian trees
 - 29. Beloved December holiday
 - 30. Regions
 - 32. Metric unit of length
 - 34. Peter's last name
 - 35. Beige
 - 37. 18-year period in astronomy
 - 40. Where golfers begin
 - 42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
 - 43. Frocks
 - 47. Soda comes in it
 - 49. On approval
 - 50. Trims by cutting
 - 52. Small finch
 - 53. Language Bura-__
 - 55. Nothing
 - 56. Imbecile (British)
 - 57. Tropical Asian plant
 - 58. Abba __, Israeli politi-
 - cian
 - 59. Small freshwater fish
 - 61. Indicates position
 - 65. Data processing
- Answers on page 20

DARREN LUM
Staff Reporter

As session one for the Highland Storm Hockey Association winds down for the Christmas break, there is optimism and hope for more hockey with session two starting in January.

With the exception of the under-17 age group, the success of the season with COVID-19 protocols so far is reflected in how it keeps going as planned and how the interest remains high, with registration waiting lists already formed for other age groups for the next session to end the season.

Storm president Jason Morissette said this was possible because of how well everyone involved has worked together, caring for each other at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

"We're pleased we've been able to provide something for our members and to keep them on the ice and ... the big message is we're very happy that the members, like the parents, players and coaches, obviously the executive, [Dysart] township, everybody has been really supportive and cooperative. I think that's been a big part of [it], honestly to make it go as smooth as can be under such strange times. Moving forward into the second season, I think the message would be we can't stop adhering to protocols and trying to continue that spirit that's been there ... and I think that's what's keeping kids, as well as spectators, in the [arena]."

Morissette said the Storm executive held an in-person meeting about a week ago to discuss what's happened since they started the two-phase season using the return to play plan based on Hockey Canada's recommendations related to safe operation during the pandemic. Some of the changes included the mandate that 170 registered hockey players come dressed before entering the arena, except for their helmets and skates, which are put on at a chair in the lobby. Everyone in the arena spectating must wear a mask.

He said the feedback from parents has been positive. Some even pointed out their children regularly looked forward to the opportunity to practice and play a game every week and were disappointed they couldn't when the arena had to close for about a week for repairs when the water well system failed. A few parents, he said, would like a four-on-four format instead of the three-on-three format. The president wasn't sure if this was financially possible because of the added costs related to requiring an additional referee, which the under-17 players have. With the way things are, the registration fees remain low and a change now could threaten that. Morissette claims the Storm is offering the cheapest registration fees among all associations in the Central Ontario region.

"We have been the only association that has actual refereed games, [that's been] going now for a month. Nobody else has had [refereed games] ... no one from Parry Sound, all the way over to Bancroft, down towards Lindsay. They have not. They are just starting now to do games ... just this [past] weekend will be their first games in Bracebridge, Huntsville, Parry Sound ...," he said.

He attributes buy-in from all involved as a recipe for success, including the groundwork for organization performed in the summer by the Storm executive.

"Things really came together. Our parents and players and the refs have been awesome about the protocols. The rules went into place and we all communi-

cated really well together and I think that's the reason why. What's been kind of cool about it is it looks to me like a lot of people have just sort of been making sure they take care of each other so that hockey can keep going and so that it's running smoothly and these kids get to play games," he said.

From what he's heard, the other hockey associations in other communities didn't have the same advantages as the Storm, which didn't have to cope with an amalgamation where two players' groups from two associations were brought together. Although there was consideration to partner with Sturgeon's hockey association, he said, there are recognized benefits to remaining small.

"We all agree right now running an in-house league is the best move for our association. It is working and when we compare it to the struggles ... the other centres [have] going through the past month or more, we're really satisfied with what our outcomes have been," he said.

The Storm didn't have any positive COVID-19 cases and as a result were not forced to shutdown.

However, hockey did suspend for close to a week when the water well system required repairs at the arena in late-November, which was immediately addressed and then subsequently resolved. Morissette said as a result some teams didn't get to play each other.

For returning players from session one, they were given early access to register for session two and it will be one week longer.

There is a feeling that everyone is working to provide players a safe place to play hockey, he said. The township has been a great partner towards this goal.

"You really get the sense that people do want to help out one another and want to see things that they can make happen, happen and keep going. I know Andrea Mueller [Dysart recreation program coordinator] and the arena staff and obviously the council I think they really get it and understand that this is an important thing," he said.

He recognizes parents and caregivers of players want to return to how hockey was before the pandemic, which included travel and competition against other towns' teams.

His message is simple:

"Let's just move forward and try and get through this season. This is what is there and it is what it is for now and then just have hope in the fall things will change and maybe there is something different there," he said. "But also, take in perspective and keep it really close to your heart that here locally we're really fortunate because there's so many places in Ontario that are not allowed to play anything. There's nothing. There's no dancing. There's no hockey. There's no gyms. None of it, right? We can't just think negatively. We have to say maybe we're actually more fortunate living in the community that has these opportunities that a lot of others don't."

Other than the under-17 group, there are wait lists being created now due to groups being full.

Registration for session two, which will run from Jan. 4 to March 14, is available for players from session one until Dec. 9. The open registration for session two starts Dec. 10.

The cost is \$100 for players in initiation one and \$225 for players from initiation two to the under-17.

See www.highlandstorm.org for more information.



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WHEREAS small, local businesses have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are in need of support from the community (as they have always been there to support us);

AND WHEREAS the Chamber wishes to encourage all to experience, support, visit and celebrate all that is available within Haliburton County.

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admin@haliburtonchamber.com
705-457-4700

They died together – remembering slain OPP officers

MICHAEL BARNES
Special to the Echo

On December 11, 1968, two OPP officers with specialized skills drove in from Peterborough to Minden in response to a request from the local detachment for a negotiator and a member adept at using tear gas. A man named William Pratt had threatened to kill his mother and was barricaded in the family home.

Detective Sergeant Lorne Chapitis, 38, (Badge #2130) was married with three children. The outgoing and inquisitive officer possessed qualities which made him a good negotiator and adept at criminal work.

His partner that day was Corporal Jim Smith (Badge #2796). Jim was a veteran of the Navy's fleet air arm. He and his wife had one son. The very likeable officer had developed an interest in Identification Services and he had taken courses in fingerprinting and photography.

The two Peterborough members made their way that evening to Lot 4, Concession 113 in Snowdon Township, Haliburton County. The Pratt home was situated at the end of a long winding road on the edge of a lake six miles east of Minden.

Earlier that day two Minden officers had gone to the

house looking for the two Pratt brothers but they were not home. While there they seized five rifles and ammunition. The brothers promised to call the OPP when they met up with their sibling. His mother had given sufficient details to facilitate an arrest warrant committing William Pratt to a psychiatric facility for assessment.

When officers returned to the isolated cottage at 5 p.m., they saw Pratt walking around in the house. The officers made a plan to conceal themselves in poorly lit areas near the two outside doors so that they might grab the mentally ill man when he came out.

Det/Sgt. Chapitis and Cpl. Smith joined the Minden members in surrounding the house. Pratt came out of the house to relieve himself and an officer lunged at him but he had to swing around a toboggan leaning against a wall. This allowed Pratt to get back inside and he discharged a rifle into the floor.

Chapitis and Smith came closer and started to talk back and forth with Pratt. At 9 p.m. he shouted for them to come closer where he could see them. When they did so, unarmed and hands held out to show that they posed no threat to the man inside the house, Pratt fired three times, killing Chapitis instantly and wounding Smith, who died within minutes.

Constable Mike Maher fired three shots to keep Pratt pinned down. It was an attempt to prevent the killer

from reaching his .44-40 calibre hunting rifle. Meanwhile Constable Barry Connelly could see the shooter through a window. When a cry rang out that the two officers were down, Connelly disregarded his own safety and dived through the window. He overpowered Pratt and held him until the others burst into the house and secured the prisoner.

Sadly Lorne's promotion to Detective Inspector arrived shortly before he went to Minden. Both Lorne Chapitis and Jim Smith were accorded police funerals.

Constable Barry Connelly was awarded the highest decoration for bravery available at the time.

At the Pratt trial, evidence was shown that he was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia at the time he murdered the two officers and he was declared not guilty by reason of insanity.

A Lt.-Gov warrant was issued committing William Pratt to the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre.

Michael Barnes is a retired, Honorary Inspector with the OPP currently living in Minden. He has published more than 50 books over the course of his life, featuring children's stories and historical OPP books. He was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1994 for his contributions to writing.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Submit a photo of your outdoor business/house display and have a chance to win a \$150 gift certificate to a business of your choice in Dysart et al!

Register by sending in your photo and providing your address (to have your photo displayed on a map) to asisson@dysartet.ca by December 14th, 2020.

Vote for your favourite at www.dysartet.ca between December 16th - 20th, 2020.

Show us your Holiday Spirit!

SIRCH helps community stay warm this winter

There were lineups, smiles and even happy dances when SIRCH Community Services hosted its annual Share The Warmth giveaway in Haliburton, Minden and Bancroft last month.

The winter coat drive gives away warm winter gear for free to anyone in the community. This year hundreds of coats, snow pants, mitts, hats, gloves, scarves and much more were donated to the initiative and organized by a group of dedicated volunteers and STW coordinator Becca Anderson.

"One lady made a point of coming to me the Tuesday following the event, just to thank us for keeping her warm this winter," said Mary Ellen Coughlan, who helped organize the Bancroft giveaway. She added a young boy did a happy dance when they found him a coat, ski pants, mitts, hat and scarf for the winter. "His father's work has been shut down since the beginning of COVID."

The Bancroft giveaway saw more than 80 people come out and pick up items. More than 140 coats were distributed, nearly 100 hats, almost 80 pairs of mitts and much more.

In Haliburton and Minden it was a similar story with Becca reporting more than 110 coats were distributed between the two locations. Other items that were given out included 56 hats, 83 pairs of mitts, 24 pairs of boots, and 21 sweaters. Many of the items distributed were for children.

Becca said those that picked up items were filled with gratitude and shared those feelings.

"I remember one mother of four saying thank you for your help," said Becca. "[She said] I was hoping this program would happen again this year. I rely on it every year to keep my children warm."

Another person remarked that the event saved their family hundreds of dollars that they didn't have.

SIRCH estimates that the giveaway equates to approx-

imately \$11,340 worth of winter wear that was distributed for free to the community. This was done through the kindness of everyone who donated, a team of hard-working volunteers and a community that cares.



Staff and volunteers with SIRCH Community Services came together last month for the organization's annual Share the Warmth giveaway. The initiative helps dozens of individuals from Haliburton, Minden and Bancroft each year, supplying those in need with items such as coats, snow pants, mitts, hats, gloves and scarves. /Submitted photo

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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west guilford
Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

As promised, the hunting season news:
From our bush, from Sawyer-Sisson people, five deer in first week; from Nicholls camp, four deer; from Cooper camp, three in first week, one in the second. George got the last one on the last Saturday morning.

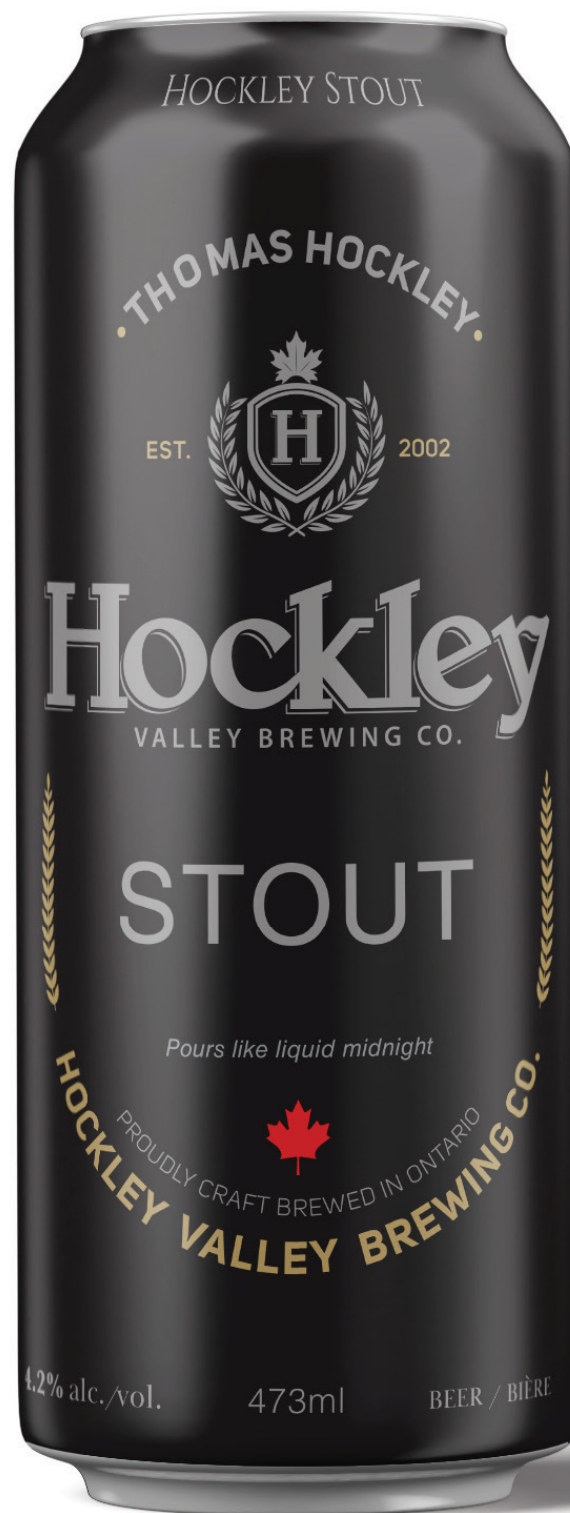
Our sympathy to the family of Ron Elstone on his death on Oct. 26 and of course to the Sisson connection, because of Mavis whose parents were Keith and Violet

Sisson of Pine Lake area at Guilford.

Congratulations to Laurie O'Reilly on her prize-winning sculpture, overexposed, which won her the Quarrington Award for multi-media art at the show in Orillia at the Museum of Art & History. Laurie's overall art is to be shown at her studio on Dec. 5 and 6 at 1513 Eagle Lake Road.

Welcome back to the Guilford area to Dianne & Ray Nicks who had lived for several years on Hwy. 118 before going to Kennisis Lake Rd. and have now returned to almost next door to me on Hwy. 118.

Good to see a photo of a very old and dear friend, Dr. Jamieson who used to come to give us our shots and see to our health in general when we, the Owens family, lived at Kushog Lake on Hwy. 35 so long ago. Dr. Jamieson saw to the birth of our youngest sister, Mavis, who because of her size, a pound and a half at birth, was named "Peewee" by the doctor.



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The Board

- Governs the affairs of PRHC in line with best practices in the sector
- Advances PRHC's vision, mission and values
- Supports the implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and ensures that all decisions are made in accordance with the plan
- Reviews and approves PRHC's Annual Operating Plan
- Provides oversight to quality of care
- Fosters regional relationships needed for seamless care

All applications are welcome, in particular from persons with a background in accounting, information technology, government and stakeholder relations, governance or healthcare, and innovation.

Before applying please visit our website at www.prhc.on.ca and click on **About PRHC/Board of Directors** for more detail.

How to Apply:

Submit an application along with a resume by January 15, 2021 to the Chair, Nominating Sub-Committee, c/o Margaret Clark, Senior Executive Assistant, Administration, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, One Hospital Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7C6, or email mclark@prhc.on.ca

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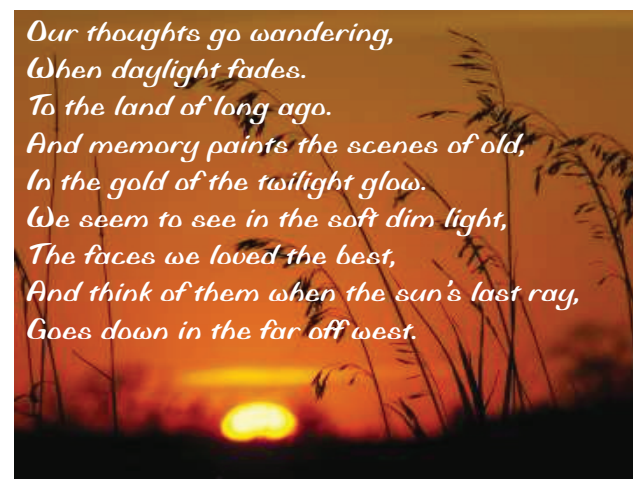
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Frank Wright

(Resident of Wilberforce, Ontario)

Peacefully at his residence on Monday morning, November 30, 2020 in his 67th year. Beloved husband and best friend to Leanna Wright (nee Pearson). Loving father of Jeremy (Brooke) and Chad (Carrie). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Austin, Gavin, Keegan, Kaleb, Lily, Brodie and Roan. Dear brother of Leon (Joyce) and his sister Cheryl (Doug).

Also lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews. Frank worked at the Oshawa Truck Plant as an Assembler for many years. He enjoyed fishing, television, golfing and most of all his family.

Private Graveside Service

A Private Graveside Service will take place. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario or the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Donna Scarrow (nee Stewart)

(Resident of Gooderham, Ontario)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Tuesday afternoon, December 1, 2020 in her 70th year. Beloved wife of Ken Scarrow. Loving mother (stepmother) of Teresa (Nathan), Ryan (Sara), Rodney (Angi), Gary (Judi), Randy (Nilla), Tess (Angelina). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Kessel, Travis (Claudia), Jesse, Zac (Audrey), Walker (Everette), Kaila (Jonny), Michael, Jonathan, Luke, Austin, Breanna and Brody. Donna enjoyed fishing and helping cut wood in the bush. She liked doing crafts, puzzles and most of all, her family.

Private Family Arrangements

Private Funeral Arrangements. Interment to follow later in 2021 in Lakeview Cemetery, Meaford. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Cody Hodgson making his talents felt as Team Canada takes on the world

1ST CHRISTMAS IN THE SNOW
Rotary exchange student from Taiwan isn't complaining about all the snow

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THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008

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Vol. 125 No. 52 \$1.25 INCL. GST

Dave Burton is new county warden

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County has a new warden.

Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton was inaugurated as the county's warden for 2009 at a ceremony in the county council chambers on December 16.

Burton was nominated for the position by Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Tom Gardner, who described Burton as "easy to work with."

The nomination was seconded by Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch.

"I know Dave can do this for us," Murdoch said. "You have to really care. If you're going to do the job right, you've got to get around to see all the people."

No other nominations were made and Burton took the position by acclamation.

After reciting the warden's oath of office, he took the podium to give a short acceptance speech.

"I won't let you down," Burton told the room, which included dozens of guests.

Burton said among his priorities for the upcoming year would be updating the county's official plan, pursuing environmentally

See **Warden** page 9



MATT JAMES/ECHO

That's right! Only two more days till Christmas!

Kindergarten students Emma Tidey covers her eye while Dante Wilson holds up two fingers in Stuart Baker Elementary School's annual Christmas concert on December 18. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 displayed their talents with a little help from their teachers. For more Christmas concert capers turn to page 23.

Toronto to discover Haliburton is one of a kind

JENN WATT

Staff Reporter

Local artists Sandi Luck and Charles O'Neil are two of the 24 artists from Eastern Ontario chosen to attend the Spring 2009 One of a Kind show in Toronto.

The artists are being sponsored by the federal government.

MP Barry Devolin recognized the two Haliburton artists for

their unique products at Heritage House Café Thursday afternoon during an announcement of the \$125,000 project.

"As an MP ... I appreciate the special flavour artists and artisans [bring] to this community," Devolin said.

Funding for the 24 artists, along with market readiness workshops, was a project that originated in Haliburton with the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Jim Blake, community economic development co-ordinator, along with HCDC vice-chairperson Barb Bolin, conceived of a program that would make a special place for Eastern Ontario artists at the One of a Kind show.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for people to take the next leap in their work," Bolin said at Heritage House Café.

She thanked the federal gov-

ernment for the money and Blake for being the "perfect stick handler" on the project.

The two said they wanted to create an export market for Haliburton, and Eastern Ontario, art and this is just the beginning of a concerted effort.

At the show there will be a designated section for Eastern Ontario that shoppers can wan-

See **One of a Kind** page 10

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